

# Our Community

E-mail your community news items to:  
community@hermistonherald.com

## IN BRIEF

### Wildhorse Foundation accepts grant requests

There's still time to apply for the next grant cycle through the Wildhorse Foundation — and the entire process can be done online.

Established by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the foundation board considers grants that cover the areas of public health, public safety, education, the arts, historic preservation, gambling addiction services, salmon restoration, environmental protection and cultural activities. Grants are awarded quarterly.

The next deadline to apply is Sunday, Jan. 1. To apply for funding, visit [www.thewildhorsefoundation.com](http://www.thewildhorsefoundation.com). For questions, contact Tiah DeGroff at 541-966-1628 or [tiah.degroff@wildhorseresort.com](mailto:tiah.degroff@wildhorseresort.com).

### Resolution Run provides head start on new year

Whether you're aiming to accomplish fitness goals for 2017 or just want to start the year off with family and friends, the Resolution Run is for you.

Providing a head start for the new year, the event is Saturday at 10 a.m. at Riverfront Park and the Oxbow Trail, Hermiston. There is no fee. Families, kids, strollers, and pets are all welcome to participate.

The main 5K course follows the Oxbow Trail, starting and ending at Riverfront Park. An optional detour through the off-road trails north of the park follows the river and adds an extra mile to the total distance. There are no rules for how short or how long participants run or walk.

Sponsored by a group of local runners, the finish line usually greets participants with high fives, hot chocolate, water and snacks. Resolution Run T-shirts will be available for purchase with proceeds going to the Hermiston High School cross country teams. For more information, contact Tim Beal at [timothybeal@gmail.com](mailto:timothybeal@gmail.com) or 509-954-8778.

### Dancing stars event seeks youth dancers

Youth dancers are needed for the upcoming Dancing with the Hermiston Stars.

To be eligible, kids need to be between 6 and 12 years old. There is a need for eight boys and 18 girls. There is no charge for the youths to participate.

Practices are Jan. 9-12 from 5-6 p.m. and the event is Saturday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m. at Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St.

For more information or to register your child, call 541-667-5018 or stop by Hermiston Parks & Recreation at 180 N.E. Second St.

### Ski bus to cruise to Anthony Lakes

Catch a ride to Anthony Lakes Resort for a day of skiing or boarding through Hermiston Parks & Recreation.

The Ski & Snowboard Days are Jan. 7, 21 and Feb. 4 and 18. The cost is \$30 per ride or \$100 for all four dates. In addition, discount lift tickets are available for \$17 or \$12 for the bunny hill. Lift tickets are free for ages

3-6 and those 70-and-older. Discount equipment rentals are \$17.

The bus ride is open to ages 3 and up, but those 13-and-younger must be accompanied by an adult.

The school bus will depart at 6 a.m. from Hermiston City Hall, 180 N.E. Second St. The anticipated return time is 7 p.m.

For more information or to register, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the parks office.

### Program identifies pre-diabetes risk

One out of every three American adults has pre-diabetes — and 90 percent don't know it.

Prevent T2 Info Sessions will provide information on how to prevent or delay progression to Type 2 diabetes. Participants can assess whether they're ready to make lifestyle changes.

The informational session is Wednesday, Jan. 11, from 4-5 p.m. or 6-7 p.m. in Meeting Room No. 2 in the Good Shepherd Medical Office Plaza, 620 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Follow-up Prevent T2 classes will be scheduled to meet participant needs.

For more information call Helena Wolfe at 541-561-5443.

### Get ready to rumba

People can learn how to rumba, a graceful and sensual dance step — or take a sampler class that features the cha cha, waltz, 1-step swing and more — during sessions offered through Hermiston Parks & Recreation.

The classes are Wednesdays from Jan. 11 through Feb. 22 (there's no class Feb. 8). The sampler class is from 6:15-7:15 p.m. and the rumba is from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the basement at the Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave. The cost for either class is \$30 for Hermiston residents and \$38 for non-residents. It's open to ages 14 and up.

No prior experience is required. Participants should wear comfortable shoes.

For more information, visit [www.hermistonrecreation.com](http://www.hermistonrecreation.com). To register, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the recreation office, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston.

### Tai chi classes offered for health benefits

The Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance program will be offered free of charge at two Hermiston locations this winter.

The classes assist in reducing the risk of falling in older adults. Each group meets twice a week for 12 weeks. Participant may join within the first three weeks. Classes are:

- Monday and Wednesdays (beginning Jan. 16) from 9-10 a.m. at the Good Shepherd Wellness Center, 610 N.W. 11th St. Space is limited to 15 participants. To register, call 541-667-3509.

- Tuesdays and Thursdays (beginning Jan. 17) from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Hermiston Senior Center, 435 W. Orchard Ave. No registration is required.

Participants should wear comfortable clothing and shoes with flexible soles. No experience is needed; former participants are invited to rejoin a class.

For more information, contact Helena Wolfe at 541-561-5443 or [hwolfe@capeco-works.org](mailto:hwolfe@capeco-works.org).

## Trio of funny men to yuck it up in the new year

### Melonville Comedy Festival is Jan. 28

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
Community Editor

A pair of regulars on the Bob & Tom Show will return to the Melonville Comedy Festival stage after the new year.

Dwight Slade, who performs on some of the biggest comedy venues across the globe, will headline the show. Gabriel Rutledge, a past winner of the Seattle International Comedy Competition, is the middle act. The pair previously brought laughs to Hermiston about 10 years ago. In addition, Chase Mayers, an up-and-coming funny man from Louisiana, is the opener and will serve as master of ceremonies.

Slade, who grew up in a Houston suburb, got his start in comedy as a teenager — much to the chagrin of his parents.

"My parents at one point said, 'Why don't you go out and drink like you other friends,'" Slade said with a laugh.

Riding a bicycle to a club in Houston, Slade and a buddy told their parents they were going to the library to study. Instead, they stood outside waiting to be motioned in when it was their time to take the stage.

Slade looks forward to performing in Hermiston again. The small town stage, he said, is fun to perform on.

"It's a unique market," he said. "They don't see a lot of live comedy, but they are used to laughing."

In addition, Slade is looking forward to sharing the show with Rutledge. A favorite among audiences and comics, Slade said Rutledge pushes those around them to bring their A game.

"He's a wonderful stand-up," Slade said. "You don't dial it in, you don't go on auto-pilot."

Rutledge, who has been on the circuit for 16 years, got his start after an open mic night at the Comedy Underground in Seattle. Although he didn't consider himself to be a class clown growing up, he had the potential. At a young age, he realized he liked



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gabriel Rutledge returns as the middle act during the Melonville Comedy Festival.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY WILL RADIK

Dwight Slade is the headliner for the Melonville Comedy Festival Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Hermiston Conference Center. Tickets are now on sale for \$35 each.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chase Mayers is the opener for the Melonville Comedy Festival.

making people laugh.

"I certainly thought I was funnier than the class clown," he said with a laugh.

Rutledge admires Slade, saying he's one of the comedians that helped him when he was coming up through the ranks.

"I looked up to him," Rutledge said. "He sort of showed me how to become a comedian."

Hailing from Louisiana, Mayers is a comedy club headliner throughout the Gulf Coast region. His unique accent and mixture of storytelling and observations draws audiences in wherever he performs.

Warren Smith, the show's promoter, said the comics are sure to tickle

the funny bone. Hilarious and entertaining, the show may not necessarily be politically correct but it won't be raunchy or indecent, he said.

The Melonville Comedy Festival is Saturday, Jan. 28, at 8 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Tickets for the 21-and-over show are \$35 each. Midway Tavern will offer a no-host bar. In addition, athletes and coaches from the local Special Olympics team will sell food as a fundraiser.

The annual comedy festival started in the early 1990s to raise money for the Umatilla County Fair. Serving on the board

at the time, Smith assisted with booking national acts to the fair's Main Stage. Bringing comedians to town, he said, was cheaper than arranging for bands because they didn't come with lots of equipment or a big entourage. Because of that, Smith took on producing the show when the fair board decided to discontinue the festival several years later.

Tickets are available at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce or [www.melonvillecomedyfestival.com](http://www.melonvillecomedyfestival.com). For more information, contact Smith at 541-561-7488, [melonvillecomedyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:melonvillecomedyfestival@gmail.com) or search Facebook for "Melonville Comedy Festival."

## Pregnancy center rings in new year with move, fundraising banquet

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
Community Editor

With the new year just around the corner, Debbie Cissna, executive director of Pregnancy Care Services in Hermiston, is excited about what's in store for the nonprofit organization.

Established in 1993 in Pendleton, Pregnancy Care Services opened its Hermiston location in May 2011. Its mission is to empower women and men through encouragement, support and education in making pregnancy decisions.

While the organization is hopeful people will choose options that are life-affirming, Cissna said the goal is to provide complete and accurate information on all options. Clients are presented with information about parenting, adoption and abortion.

"I want to step away from that stigma of division," Cissna said. "We are pro-woman."

Pregnancy Care Services offers free confidential counseling for pregnancy options. Among its services are pregnancy



FILE PHOTO

Pregnancy Care Services in Hermiston provides assistance to women facing an uncertain pregnancy, including needed baby items. The organization is moving to a new location and hosting a fundraising dinner.

tests, referrals for free ultrasounds, parenting classes, and maternity and infant supplies.

Tucked away in office space at the Cornerstone Plaza at the south end of Hermiston, Cissna is thrilled with the upcoming move to a more central location at the Granary Square. A grand re-opening event and ribbon-cutting is planned for Thursday, Jan. 12, at noon at 105 S.W. Second St., Hermiston.

In addition, a fundraising banquet is set for Sunday, Jan. 22, from 5-7

p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Although there's no cost to attend, registration is required by Tuesday, Jan. 17, to ensure enough food is available. Kathy Barnett will present a pork loin dinner and a delicious dessert, Cissna said. Those in attendance will have an opportunity to make a financial gift to the organization. In addition, sponsorship opportunities are available for the event.

The keynote speaker is John Ensor. For more than two decades, he's been a leader, speaker and writ-

er for the pregnancy help movement.

"He's fairly well-known in the pro-life community," Cissna said. "He's a dynamic speaker."

Cissna, who previously volunteered with the organization, has been the director for the past two years. She is a firm believer in providing accurate information for those who seek services.

"We have found that when a woman has all the information, she is most satisfied with her choice," Cissna said. "We give her all the information and all her options and the choice is hers."

Starting Tuesday, Jan. 3, Pregnancy Care Services will be located at 105 S.W. Second St., Hermiston. It's open Monday through Thursdays from 12:30-5 p.m. In addition to appointments, walk-ins are welcome. For more information, sponsorship opportunities or to RSVP for the fundraising banquet, contact Cissna at [debbie@pregnancycareservices.com](mailto:debbie@pregnancycareservices.com), 541-567-2393 or visit [www.pregnancycareservices.com](http://www.pregnancycareservices.com).